

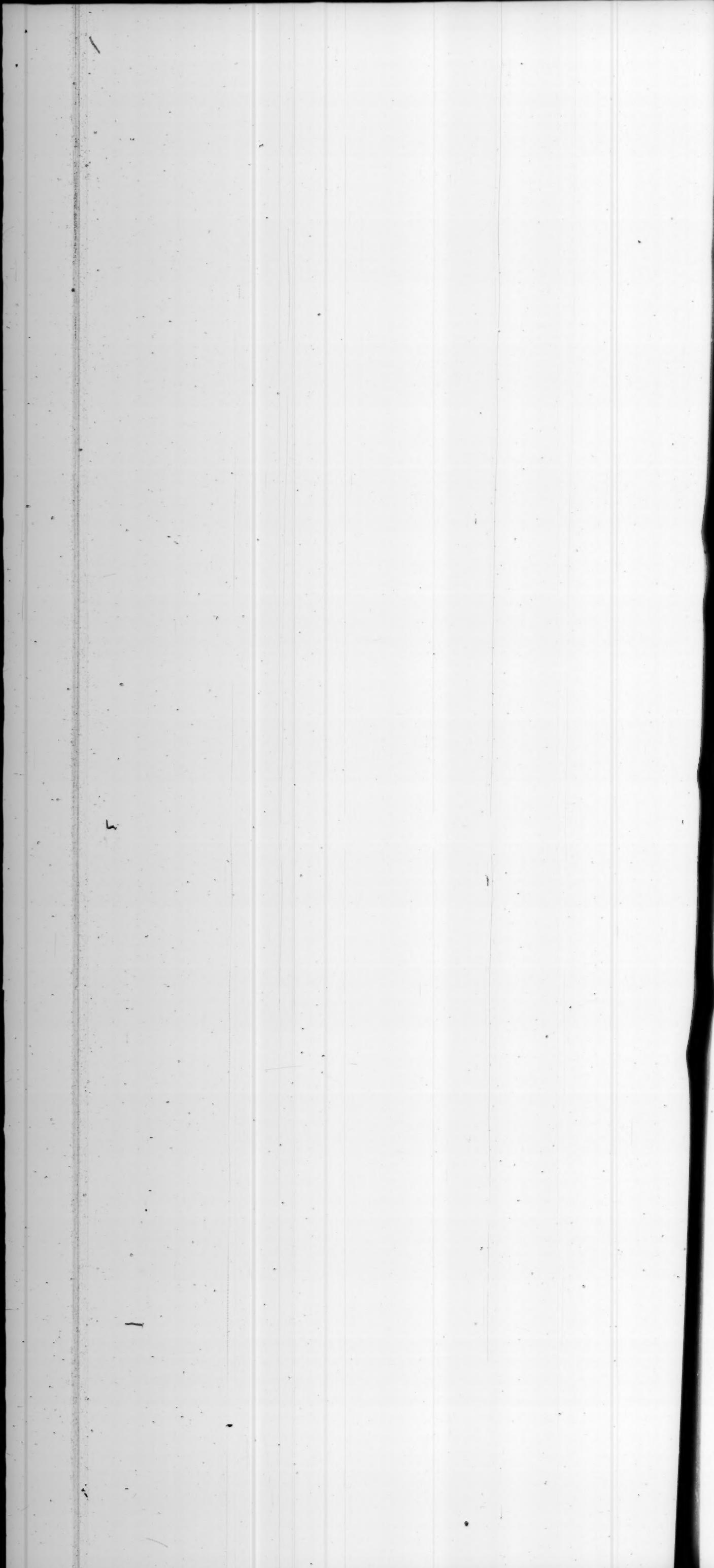


By the King.

A Proclamation for preseruation of Grounds
for making of Saltpeter, and to restore such grounds as are
now destroyed, and to command Assistance to be giuen to
His Maiesties Saltpeter-Makers.



Though by Our former Proclamations wee haue declared the most necessarie and important vse of Gunpowder, as well for supply of Our owne Navy Royall and the shipping of Our louing Subjects, as otherwise for the defence, strength and safetie of Our people and Kingdoms, and how great a blessing it is of Almighty God to this Realme, that it naturally yeeldeþ sufficient Mynes of Saltpeter for making of Gunpowder, without any necessity to depend vpon the dangerous, chargeable and casuall supplies from Forreigne parts: Yet notwithstanding, wee are informed, that diuers of our Subjects of this Realme haue beene so farre from the apprehension of the care we haue & take of the Kingdoms safety, That they haue of late times sundry wayes much more impaired and destroyed the growth and Mynes of Saltpeter, then soverainly: But howeuer, as we in Our princely care, will not omit any prouidence against what inconueniences may ensue, so must we not endure the contempts of such as be disobedient Subjects, but (by reviving aswell that Proclamation, of the sixe and twentith day of December, one thousand six hundred twenty foure, published by Our late deare father, concerning Saltpeter, as that which sithence was published in the first yeere of Our Reigne) Let all sorts of Delinquents know that wee intend strictly to proceed against them according to the severall branches thereof, for all offences contrarie to the Tenor of the same, since the promulgation thereof, without respect of any person: sauing that wee thinke fit to declare that wee will not haue any sacred ground be Stirred, Digged, or Opened, by authority of any Commission granted or to be granted for this service. And the better to meet with all offendours in this behalfe, we haue lately Granted Our Speciall Commission to diuers of the Lords and others of Our Pruite Councill, to whom we haue committed the trust and care of that important service; Giving

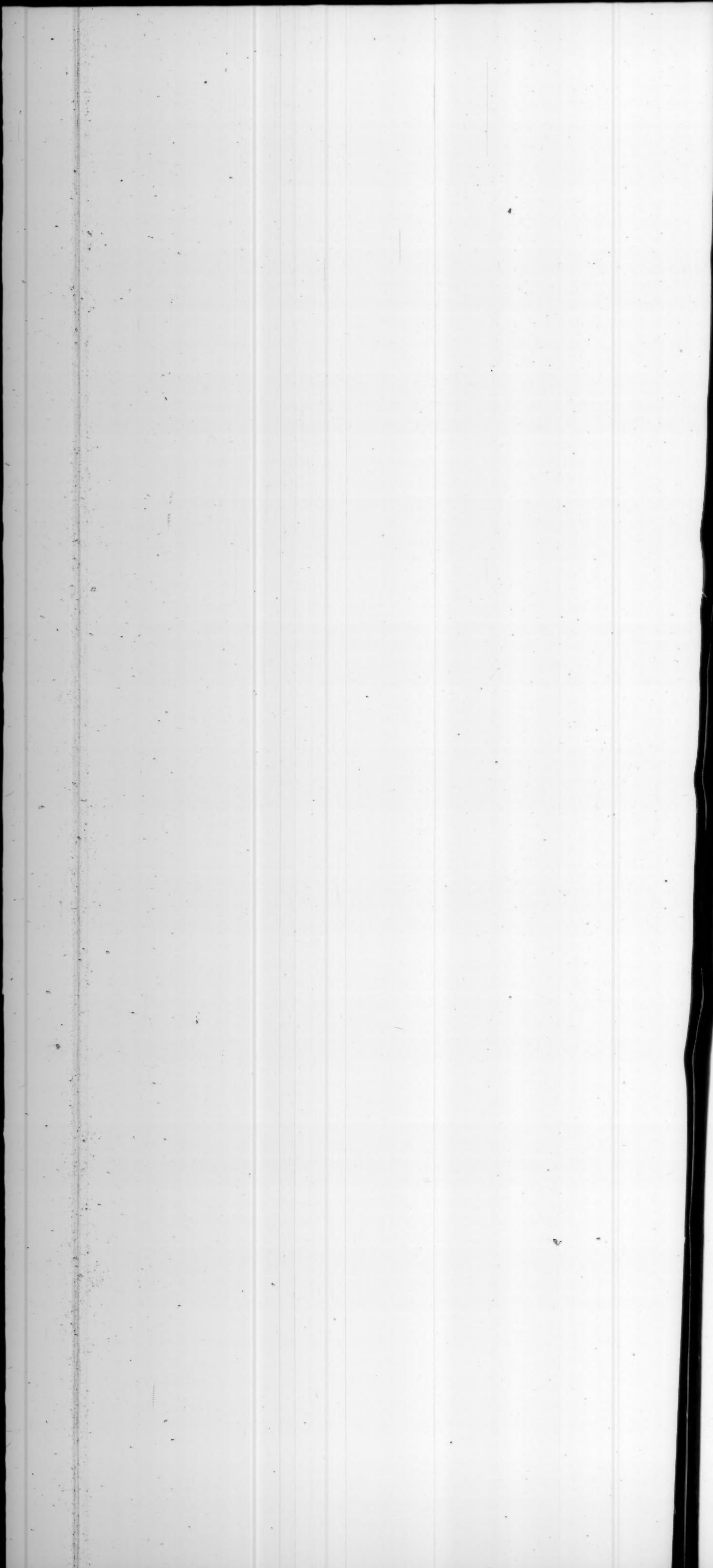


them full power and authority, as well to assist Our Salt-peter-Makers, and their Deputies, in their lawfull proceedings in that imployment for such Our especiall seruice, as also vpon complaint made vnto them, or some of them, and due prooife thereof made, to give speedy reformation to all impediments and mischiefes concerning the same.

And to take away all pretence of ignorance of Our Royall pleasure in this behalfe, we by the aduise of the Lords and others of Our Privie Council, doe againe publish and declare, and hereby strictly charge and command all Our Subjects of whatsoeuer estate, degree, or condition, That no person or persons whatsoeuer within this Our Kingdome of England, or Dominion of Wales, doe from henceforth paue with stone, or bricke, or Floore with board any Doue-house, or Doue-coate, or any such Ware-house, or out-houses, as are allowed by Our Commission, to be wrought for Salt-peter, or any Cellar, or Vault, (excepting onely in that part of the Cellar or Vault where the Beere lyeth, and excepting such Cellars and Vaults onely, wherein Noblemen and Gentlemen of revenue and qualitie, doe lay or draw their Wine, beere, or cyder, or other drinke for the prouision of their housshould) or doe lay the same with lime, sand, grauell, or other thing, whereby the growth and encrease of the Mine of Salt-peter may be hindred or impaired, but shall suffer the floore or ground of the places aforesaid, to lie open with good and mellow earth, apt to breed increase of the said Mine, and Salt-peter, and so continue the same.

And that no Inkeepers or others, that keepe Stables for trauailers and passengers, doe vse any deceitfull meanes or deuices, whereby to destroy or hinder the growth of Salt-peter in those stables, and that no stables at all (other then the stables of the Lords Spirituall, and Tempozall, and of Gentlemen of qualitie) bee found pitched, paued, or grauelled, where the horse feet vse to stand, but plancked onely, nor be paued, pitched, or grauelled before the planckes next the maungers, but that both places be kept and maintained with good and mellow earth, fit and apt to breed and encrease the Mine of Salt-peter, and be layed with nothing which may hinder or hurt the same. And likewise that all & every such person and persons, as having heretofore since the last Proclamation had any Doue-house, Doue-coat, Stable, Cellar, Vault, Ware-house, or other Out-houses, (which were then good Nurseries for the breed of the Mine of Salt-peter) haue sithence carried out the good mould from thence, and filled the place againe with lyme, grauell, sand, rubbish or other like stiffe; or paued, boarded, or plancked the same, whereby the Grouth of the Mine of Salt-peter there hath beene decayed or destroyed, shall and do within two monethes next comming, take vp the said pavements, boards, or plankes againe, and carry out the said grauell, lyme, and other stiffe from thence, and fill the place againe with good and mellow earth, fit for the encrease of Salt-peter three foot deepe at the least, and so continue and keepe the same for the breed of Salt-peter Mine.

And for as much as wee are further aduertised, that it is growne of late to a frequent practice, to erect Douehouses, or to floore them three or four foot from the ground, whereby the quantity of the Mine of Salt-peter, which was vsually wont to grow in the Floore of Douehouses, is almost wholly decayed to the great preindice of Our said seruice, and which in time will bee a meanes to ouerthow this Worke: Our will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby straitly charge and command that such Douehouses be forthwith by the present Owners or Occupiers thereof altered and amended, by demolishing and pulling vp those Floores and false bottomes, and by laying those Douehouses open and free to the bare earth or ground, whereby the Myne of Salt-peter may grow and encrease, according as anciently hath been vsed & accustomed, and that from henceforth, no other or more Douehouses be erected or suffered to be built after that way, or vpon any upper losfts or Floores, so much tending to the preindice of that which should be serviceable to the Common Wealth.



And to the end that our Royall Will and pleasure may from time to time hereafter be more duly obserued in the premisses, we do hereby require and command all & every Our Justices of Peace, and all other Our Officers whatsoeuer, That they & every of them, vpon request to them made by Our Salt peter Makers, or their Deputies authorised in that behalfe, or any of them, doe resort and enter into, and make search in all Douehouses, Cellars, Vaultes, out-houses and Stables (other then as aforesaid) there to view and see, whether they be so paved, Grauelled, or otherwise so built, floored or bottomed from the ground as aforesaid, Or any other way or meanes practised, in deceit, or euasion, or contrary to any the Proclamations of Us or Our late Fathers, published in that behalfe: And thereupon to take order and see that a full and due reformation be therof speedilie had and made, according to Our Command herein, and in Our former Proclamations declared and published in that behalfe.

Lastly for that notwithstanding all Our care and prouidence, wee may justly suspect, that there will still be discovered some refractorie persons in this behalfe, Therefore we doe hereby require & authorize all Our Judges of Assise in their severall Circuits, Justices of Peace in every severall County of this Kingdom, Maiors, Sherifes, Baillies, Constables & all other Our Officers & Ministers from time to time, as occasion shall require, to be furthering, helping, aiding and assisting to Our Salt peter Makers, and their deputies, vpon request in that behalfe made, according to the Tenour of Our said Commission, and the effect of this and the former mentioned Proclamations of Our Father, and of Our selfe.

And wee doe hereby straitly charge and command all maner of persons whatsoeuer carefullie and diligently to obserue and performe the said Proclamations before mentioned, and Our Royall pleasure therein expressed, as they and euerie of them will auoide Our heauy displeasure, and the censure of being holden contemners of Our Royall Commandement, in a matter of so high consequence for the publike seruice and safety of Our State and Kingdome, and vpon such further penalties and punishments, as for example to others, their contempts and want of duty shall demerit and in Our High Court of Starchamber or otherwise shall be found fit to bee imposed vpon them.

Giuen at Our Court at Whitehall, the fourteenth day of March in the tenth yeere
of Our Reigne of England, Scotland, France and Ireland.

God sauе the King.

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